

Clean Heating and Cooling Screenings for Large Buildings

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Clean Heating and Cooling Screenings for Large Buildings Initiative?

The Clean Heating and Cooling (CHC) Screenings for Large Buildings initiative is an offering to encourage electrification of large buildings in New York State. As part of this plan, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is administering the CHC Screenings for Large Buildings initiative, whereby eligible customers can access free screenings to assess the potential benefits of installing clean, efficient alternatives to natural gas for heating and cooling their buildings.

What technologies will be evaluated?

The screenings evaluate the technological, economic feasibility, and benefits of installing air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps, and variable refrigerant flow (VRF) systems relative to fossil-fuel based HVAC systems.

What are the potential benefits of Clean Heating and Cooling technologies?

Ground source and air source heat pumps and VRF systems are smart, efficient, healthy options for buildings of all types and sizes.

- **WARMER.** Spread heat more efficiently than conventional oil, propane, or electric resistance heating systems.
- **COOLER.** Cool more efficiently during high summer temperatures.
- **COMFIER.** Provide quiet, even heating and cooling throughout a building.
- **EASIER.** Clean heating and cooling systems last longer than conventional HVAC systems and require minimal maintenance.
- **CLEANER and HEALTHIER.** No combustion of fossil fuels, fuel storage, or carbon monoxide emissions.

What are the eligibility requirements to participate in the initiative?

Any owner of a commercial, multifamily, industrial, healthcare, nonprofit, higher-ed, or State and local government building (whether existing or new construction) may apply if the following conditions are met:

- Building is 10,000 square feet or greater in size
- Owner pays a System Benefits Charge on electric utility bill associated with the building

Are there any limitations?

Participants cannot have received other NYSERDA or utility funding to pay for feasibility screenings relating to heat pumps or VRF projects for three years prior to application. Please note that buildings used for pre-kindergarten through 12th activities can receive free screenings through the program described at nyserderda.ny.gov/P-12-programs.

How much does it cost for our organization to participate?

The screenings are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants receive screenings at no cost.

How many screenings does the initiative hope to achieve?

NYSERDA intends to screen approximately 200 buildings.

What is the timeframe for the initiative?

This offering is scheduled to last until December 31, 2022 or until all funding has expired.

What is the process for participating in the program?

To get started, please connect with us at nyserderda.ny.gov/large-building-screenings. Complete the form and a NYSERDA contractor will contact participants within five business days to collect information about your specific building (or buildings).

What will the screening report include?

In the screening report, participants receive a detailed estimated impact of installing clean heating and cooling systems in their building, including the following:

- Energy consumption and savings
- Capital costs
- Greenhouse gas emission reductions
- Financial metrics (investment payback, net present value)

Who do I contact if I have more questions?

Please send an email to chc_large_bldgs@nyserderda.ny.gov if you have additional questions about the initiative.